



File Code: 2580-2

Date: January 25, 2008

Mr. Martin Luther
Kentucky Division of Air Quality
803 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Luther:

On December 17, 2007, the State of Kentucky submitted a draft implementation plan describing your proposal to improve air quality regional haze impacts at mandatory Class I areas across our region. I am aware that Henry Hickerson, Acting Forest Supervisor of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia, is providing Forest Service comments on the draft plan because that Forest manages a Class I area potentially affected by emissions from Kentucky. My primary purpose in writing is to concur with Mr. Hickerson's comments, and to express my commitment to wildland fire smoke management, especially with regard to the prescribed fire program on the Daniel Boone National Forest.

We have appreciated the opportunity to work closely with the State through the initial evaluation, development, and, now, subsequent review of the Regional Haze implementation plan. We recognize that while there are no Class I areas on the Daniel Boone National Forest, emissions reductions at sources within and adjacent to our state will improve air quality and this is positive for our forest resources as well as the citizens of Kentucky. We also want to reiterate the Daniel Boone's commitment to smoke management for the protection of human health and safety, including visibility.

This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service has received and conducted a substantive review of your proposed Regional Haze Rule implementation plan. Please note, however, that only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can make a final determination about the document's completeness, and therefore, only the EPA has the ability to approve the document. The Forest Service's participation in the State of Kentucky's administrative process does not waive any legal defenses or sovereignty rights it may have under the laws of the United States, including the Clean Air Act and its implementing regulations.



Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the State of Kentucky. The Forest Service compliments you on your hard work and dedication to significant improvement in our nation's air quality values and visibility.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy J. Ross (for)

JEROME E. PEREZ

Forest Supervisor

cc: Michele Notarianni- EPA Region 4